Policy for National Channel of DD

2328. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the policy, aims and objects of the National Channel of Doordarshan in various States;

(b) whether Government have a separate policy for Kolkata Doordarshan to promote the regional political parties; and

(c) if not, the reasons for which Kolkata Doordarshan broadcasts daily the view of a particular political party?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan, including its National and Regional Channels, is mandated by Section 12 (1) of the Prasar Bharati Act, 1990 to organize and conduct Public Broadcasting services to inform, educate and entertain the public. Further Section 12 (2) of the aforesaid Act provides that the Prasar Bharati shall, in the discharge of its functions, be guided by certain objectives which *inter-alia* include safeguarding the citizens' right to be informed freely, truthfully and objectively on all matters of public interest, national or international, and presenting a fair and balanced flow of information including contrasting views without advocating any opinion or ideology of its own.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshan does not give preference to any particular political party. Kolkata Doordarshan telecasts its news as per the policy guidelines in a fair and objective manner.

Ban on advertisement on pay channels

2329. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to ban advertisements on pay channels;

(b) if so, details thereof;